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General Debate 3 (a): Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

3 (b): Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration

Statement submitted by Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council[2]

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[1] E/CN.9/2018/1.
[2] The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD) has been contributing to solve issues of housing deprivation and human mobility within the private sector including global corporations for achieving the Goal 11, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

Large scale of human mobility such as migrations within and between countries has been recently taking place due to urbanization and other external reasons. There are three common causes for human mobility; economic hardship, social and political change, and demographic change. People face great difficulties and challenges when they move. People cannot easily integrate, adapt into new and different societies and are often hampered by a variety of restrictions in their activities.

The greatest hardship is the lack of sustainable residential space to settle down. These people often cannot get decent quality of residential space and are likely to become homeless or poor residential dwellers. Furthermore, they can be a main contributor to the increment in urban population and to hinder and hamper urban economic growth and activity at the same time. Mega cities in Europe and Southeast Asia have limited financial resources to accommodate the population living in cities. Therefore, economic growth and economic activities can decrease and come to an end in these cities, which can represent a serious threat to international society in the future.

The number of people suffering from housing deprivation has increased significantly in recent years. Housing deprivation is one of the biggest risks faced by developing and less developed countries. UN-Habitat considers housing and slum upgrading as a critical issue among 16 urban themes. Housing deprivation in the developing countries and less developed countries can trigger bigger threats such as terror and slum-building. Also, in the developed countries, housing deprivation can create large-scale unemployment, economic crisis, and eventually a threat of international-level.

To combat this issue, the Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD) has supported significant projects. Our partners are mainly global corporations from the Republic of Korea. Global Steel Maker POSCO, for example, has been working on a project called "POSCO Steel Village". POSCO finds poor residential areas, and works to improve the environment and the living conditions of the residents in the cities where POSCO works. POSCO Steel Village is a project to build high-quality houses using POSCO's own steel-house method and to provide sustainable life for residents. Starting in 2014, POSCO has built a total of 104 houses in Vietnam, and is planning to expand its project into various regions and countries. POSCO began a global initiative (#SDGAction23282), Partnership for SDGs Platform, to improve poor living conditions of residents and contribute to accomplish Goal 11.

Designed by the POSCO family company POSCO A&C, POSCO Steel Village uses POSCO steel materials and strengthens durability and life of buildings. This project promotes proper residential environment through arrangements with local government and citizens and provides necessary conditions to achieve sustainable life for residents. The project has constructed buildings, houses, schools, and bridges. It has also established a social enterprise that helps local communities to be financially independent. POSCO and local communities are trying to solve issues such as lack of jobs. Sustainable cities should not only mean decent quality of housing, but also sustainable infrastructure, environment, and economy.

Through the POSCO Steel Village Project, the organization is attempting to make efforts to attain Goal 11. Starting with the POSCO Steel Village Project, and helping on issues about poor human settlements, the organization can take a step forward to achieve one SDG target of the UN 2030 Agenda, especially target 11.7, "by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe housing and basic services and upgrade slums". Furthermore, POSCO and the Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs are committed to support financial and technical assistance in building sustainable and resilient buildings, and to work on the Sendai Framework 2015–2030 for disaster risk reduction.

As a critical issue of the international society, population growth in developing countries and less developed countries requires attention and work from all. Appropriate and continued efforts such as building suitable infrastructure and creating jobs, are necessary for economic growth in these areas. To provide a sustainable city for people, sustainable residential places should not be missed. Practical efforts such as the ones conducted by POSCO Steel Village, in partnership with activities of the Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD), are essential for achieving the goals.

The Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD), hopes to be a crucial model to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting and supporting influential private projects such as POSCO Steel Village along the United Nations and international society. Global corporations such as POSCO can be practical partners to make considerable progress on the implementation and spreading of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) all over the world.